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Attention: Medicaid Physicians, Pharmacies, FQHC,
RHC, and Nursing Homes

Effective June 1, 2004, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin implementation of a Prospective DUR Therapeutic Duplication edit for Analgesic Narcotics. Therapeutic Duplication is the prescribing of two or more drugs from the same therapeutic class such that the combined daily dose increases the risk of toxicity or incurs additional program costs without additional therapeutic benefit. This edit will warn pharmacists when a claim is submitted for a systemically absorbed drug in the same therapeutic class or a non-systemically absorbed drug with the same route of administration as another drug in the patient's active medication history. The therapeutic duplication edit takes into consideration the exhaustion of previously dispensed medications by calculating the days supply and the dispensed date. This edit requires an override approval from Medicaid before the claim will adjudicate. Requests may be faxed, or mailed to:

Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210
Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130

Override requests failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must submit a written letter of medical justification along with the override request form. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information. Questions regarding override procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

May 6, 2004



P.O. Box 244032
Montgomery AL 36124-4032